

**CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE HABITAT RELATIONSHIPS SYSTEM**  
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M008 Inyo Shrew *Sorex tenellus*  
Family: Soricidae Order: Insectivora Class: Mammalia

Written by: V. Johnson  
Reviewed by: H. Shellhammer  
Edited by: R. Duke

**DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY**

A rare, yearlong resident of canyon bottoms and shaded places; found under boulders and logs (Ingles 1965). Limited to southeastern Mono and western and northern Inyo cos. in California (Hall 1946, Hall and Kelson 1959, Ingles 1965). Most common in montane riparian and aspen habitats; less common in pinyon-juniper habitat; also found in sagebrush, bitterbrush, and alkali desert scrub habitats. Usually found in shaded damp situations less than 300 m (1000 ft) from flowing water (Burt 1934). Trapped at elevations between 1670 and 3000 m (5500 and 10,000 ft) (Burt 1934, Hall 1946, Jorgensen and Hayward 1963).

**SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS**

Feeding: No data found. Probably insects (Hall and Kelson 1959).

Cover: Found under boulders and logs (Ingles 1965).

Reproduction: No data found.

Water: Favors damp situations; often found near flowing water (Burt 1934, Ingles 1965).

Pattern: Riparian sites in sagebrush scrub; pinyon-juniper, and deciduous and aspen habitats are preferred (Burt 1934, Hall and Kelson 1959; Ingles 1965).

**SPECIES LIFE HISTORY**

Activity Patterns: No data found. Presumed nocturnal and crepuscular (Burt 1934).  
Active yearlong.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: None.

Home Range: No data found.

Territory: No data found.

Reproduction: No data found.

Niche: Predators of shrews in general include owls, Steller's jays, and trout (Ingles 1965). The Inyo shrew is host to at least two species of mites (Allred and Goates 1964).

Comments: Also called Great Basin dwarf shrew; see Hoffmann and Owen (1980).

## REFERENCES

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